

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 211362  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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R 182353Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BERLIN  
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211362

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, SNAR, GE, GW, WB

SUBJECT: HOUSE DRUG COMMITTEE VISIT TO GERMANY

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY VEST AND AMBASSADOR STOESSEL MET AUGUST 17 WITH CONGRESSMAN GLENN ENGLISH TO DISCUSS THE VISIT TO GERMANY IN NOVEMBER OF A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION INVESTIGATING DRUG ABUSE AMONG US MILITARY PERSONNEL AND DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE DELEGATION WILL BE COMPOSED OF MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS ABUSE AND CONTROL AND THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

2. ENGLISH SAID THE CODEL PLANS TO BREAK UP INTO GROUPS EACH OF WHICH WILL SPEND TWO DAYS, NOV. 13-14, WITH A SEPARATE US MILITARY UNIT (BATTALION OR SMALLER) STATIONED  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 211362

IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. THEY WILL INTERVIEW INDIVIDUAL SOLDIERS ("NO ONE ABOVE THE RANK OF CAPTAIN"). THIS PROCESS WILL BE REPEATED WITH DIFFERENT MILITARY UNITS NOVEMBER 15-16. ON NOVEMBER 17 THE CODEL WILL REASSEMBLE AND SELECT CERTAIN SOLDIERS WHOM THEY CONSIDER WOULD MAKE "GOOD WITNESSES" AT THE FORMAL HEARINGS THEY INTEND TO HOLD THE FOLLOWING WEEK IN WEST BERLIN.

3. CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH SAID THE CODEL WOULD ALSO LIKE TO MEET WITH APPROPRIATE GERMAN OFFICIALS IN THE FRG AND IN WEST BERLIN, BUT THAT THIS WOULD DEPEND VERY MUCH ON GERMAN WISHES. HE INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT TRAVEL TO BONN TOO, PERHAPS TO MEET WITH CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT. AMBASSADOR STOESSEL ASSURED ENGLISH THAT THE GERMANS WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THE CODEL'S WORK AND COOPERATIVE. THE CHANCELLOR MIGHT NOT BE AVAILABLE PERSONALLY FOR A MEETING, BUT IF NOT WOULD SURELY DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE.

4. ENGLISH INQUIRED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF MEETING GDR OFFICIALS IN EAST BERLIN. (POSTS WILL RECALL THAT CONGRESSMEN ENGLISH AND WOLFF HELD PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 1 IN WHICH THEY CHARGED GDR WITH BEING A "SILENT PARTNER" TO HARD DRUGTRAFFICKERS (STATE 140603). EUR/CE DIRECTOR WOESSNER VOICED HIS PERSONAL BELIEF THAT THE GDR WAS NOT ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN PROMOTING DRUG TRAFFIC INTO THE WEST, BUT HAD THUS FAR BEEN RATHER A PASSIVE BYSTANDER. HE THEN DETAILED EFFORTS OF AMBASSADOR BOLEN TO ENLIST GDR COOPERATION AND INITIAL GDR RESPONSIVENESS (E.G. DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN VARMA CONFERENCE). WOESSNER ALSO POINTED OUT GDR EAGERNESS TO RECEIVE US CONGRESSIONAL VISITORS. VEST SAID DEPARTMENT WOULD SEEK AMBASSADOR BOLEN'S JUDGMENT ON WHETHER TO APPROACH GDR FOR MEETING WITH CODEL IN EAST BERLIN. WOESSNER SUGGESTED ENGLISH

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 211362

MIGHT ALSO SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH NEW GDR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

5. IN CONCLUSION, CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED THUS FAR FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND HIS EARNEST WISH FOR CONTINUED CLOSE CONSULTATION AS CODEL'S PLANS MATURE. HE NOTED THAT COMMITTEE'S CHIEF OF STAFF, WILLIAM LAWRENCE, WOULD UNDERTAKE PREPARATORY TRIP TO GERMANY IN SEPTEMBER.

6. COMMENT: CONGRESSMAN ENGLISH IS ALERT TO THE PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS IN GERMANY OF THE CODEL'S PROJECTED ACTIVITIES AND THE SENSITIVE POLITICAL DIMENSIONS OF TRYING TO ENLIST THE COOPERATION OF BOTH GERMAN STATES IN CONTROLLING THE FLOW AND USE OF HARD DRUGS. HE IS CLEARLY RECEPTIVE TO STATE DEPARTMENT GUIDANCE AND WE INTEND TO BE AS RESPONSIVE AS POSSIBLE, WITH THE AIM OF PROMOTING OVERALL USG EFFORTS TO COMBAT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN GERMANY BUT ALSO TO AVOID ANY ADVERSE REPERCUSSIONS INSENSITIVE HANDLING MIGHT CAUSE IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE FRG.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: BONN AND USBER: PLEASE PROVIDE  
YOUR GENERAL COMMENTS ON CODEL'S PROJECTED TRIP AND  
ANY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT APPOINT-  
MENTS WITH GERMAN OFFICIALS.

8. BERLIN: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER YOU THINK IT DESIRABLE  
TO SEEK APPOINTMENTS WITH GDR OFFICIALS IN EAST BERLIN.  
THESE WOULD BE STRICTLY SUBSTANTIVE, NOT CEREMONIAL,  
INVOLVING DAY CROSSINGS FROM WEST BERLIN DURING WEEK  
CODEL IS BASED THERE. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** DRUGS, COMMITTEES, VISITS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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